



Washington State Legislature

January 26, 2012

Michele Leonhart, Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
Attn: Administrator
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Subject: *Rulemaking petition to reclassify cannabis for medical use from a Schedule I controlled substance to a Schedule II*

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

We write in support of the petition that Governor Chafee and Governor Gregoire recently submitted to initiate rulemaking proceedings for the reclassification of medical cannabis (also known as marijuana) from Schedule I to Schedule II of the CSA.

We are also concerned that qualifying patients with serious medical conditions who could benefit from medical use of cannabis do not have a safe and consistent source of their medicine that has been recommended by a licensed health care professional in our state. The divergence in state and federal law creates a situation where there is no regulated and safe system to supply legitimate patients who may need medical cannabis. More to the point, it is clear that the long-standing classification of medical use of cannabis in the United States as an illegal Schedule I substance is fundamentally flawed and should be changed. The federal government could quickly solve the issue if it were to reclassify cannabis for medical use from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule II drug so that it can be prescribed, which we believe the petition provides substantiated peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support.

The solution lies ultimately with the federal government. We urge the DEA to initiate rulemaking proceedings to reclassify medical cannabis as a Schedule II drug so qualifying patients who follow state law may obtain the medication they need through the traditional and safe method of physician prescribing and pharmacy dispensing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Kohl-Welles".

Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Washington State Senate – 36th District



Washington State Legislature

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Keiser".

Senator Karen Keiser
Washington State Senate – 33rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roger E. Goodman".

Representative Roger Goodman
Washington State House of Representatives – 45th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rodney Tom".

Senator Rodney Tom
Washington State Senate – 48th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dave Upthegrove".

Representative Dave Upthegrove
Washington State House of Representatives – 33rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Fitzgibbon".

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
Washington State House of Representatives – 34th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maralyn Chase".

Senator Maralyn Chase
Washington State Senate – 32nd District



Washington State Legislature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Moeller".

Representative Jim Moeller
Washington State House of Representatives – 49th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Frockt".

Senator David Frockt
Washington State Senate – 46th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Harris".

Representative Paul Harris
Washington State House of Representatives – 17th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margarita Prentice".

Senator Margarita Prentice
Washington State Senate – 11th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Harper".

Senator Nick Harper
Washington State Senate – 38th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timm Ormsby".

Representative Timm Ormsby
Washington State House of Representatives – 3rd District



Washington State Legislature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McCoy".

Representative John McCoy
Washington State House of Representatives – 38th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Billig".

Representative Andy Billig
Washington State House of Representatives – 3rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry Appleton".

Representative Sherry Appleton
Washington State House of Representatives – 23rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon K. Nelson".

Senator Sharon Nelson
Washington State Senate – 34th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Murray".

Senator Ed Murray
Washington State Senate – 43rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcie Maxwell".

Representative Marcie Maxwell
Washington State House of Representatives – 41st District



Washington State Legislature

Jeannie Darneille

Representative Jeannie Darneille
Washington State House of Representatives – 27th District

Debbie Regala

Senator Debbie Regala
Washington State Senate – 27th District

Jamie Pedersen

Representative Jamie Pedersen
Washington State House of Representatives – 43rd District

Chris Reykdal

Representative Chris Reykdal
Washington State House of Representatives – 22nd District

Steve Conway

Senator Steve Conway
Washington State Senate – 29th District

Andy Hill

Senator Andy Hill
Washington State Senate – 45th District



Washington State Legislature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Hunt".

Representative Sam Hunt
Washington State House of Representatives – 22nd District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Tharinger".

Representative Steve Tharinger
Washington State House of Representatives – 24th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Litzow".

Senator Steve Litzow
Washington State Senate – 41st District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry Pollet".

Representative Gerry Pollet
Washington State House of Representatives – 46th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lou Dickerson".

Representative Mary Lou Dickerson
Washington State House of Representatives – 36th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Jenkins".

Representative Laurie Jenkins
Washington State House of Representatives – 27th District



Deborah Eddy Washington State Legislature

Representative Deborah Eddy
Washington State House of Representatives – 48th District

Adam Kline

Senator Adam Kline
Washington State Senate – 37th District

Cindy Ryu

Representative Cindy Ryu
Washington State House of Representatives – 32nd District

Eileen Cody

Representative Eileen Cody
Washington State House of Representatives – 34th District

Judy Clibborn

Representative Judy Clibborn
Washington State House of Representatives – 41st District

Cary Condotta

Representative Cary Condotta
Washington State House of Representatives – 12th District



Washington State Legislature

Representative Luis Moscoso
Washington State House of Representatives – 1st District

Senator Karen Fraser
Washington State Senate – 22nd District

Senator Joe Fain
Washington State Senate – 47th District

Senator Cheryl Pflug
Washington State Senate – 5th District

Senator Jerome Delvin
Washington State Senate – 8th District

cc: The Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States
The Honorable Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General
The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
The Honorable Margaret Hamburg, M.D., FDA Commissioner
The Honorable Chris Gregoire, Governor, State of Washington